



Covenant

CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

"...tell the next generation..." PSALM 78:4

NOVEMBER 2015



CCRTC NEWS
FALL 2015
www.covenantteacherscollege.com



from the PRINCIPAL CHRISTINE VAN HALEN-FABER

Autumn skies offer a never-ceasing source of wonder: As the eye is drawn to rapidly-changing cloud formations, one cannot but stand in awe of the playful beams of cool-but-brilliant light that turn the oranges, reds, and yellows of the deciduous trees into an impressive golden glow. Yes, it's that time of year again . . . let's take the time to mark it with awe and joy!

It is already a couple of months ago that eighteen students, four full-time faculty members, several part-time faculty, staff, and a member of the Board of Governors attended Orientation Day, marking the beginning of the 35th year of operation of Covenant College. Together we paused to consider the words: *For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.* (Ps.36:9). These words formed an entry point into a new year of teaching and learning with joy and in humble submission to God's Word. As children of the Word, we endeavour to place all our work under that comforting rainbow of the LORD's covenant faithfulness. It is in this light that we rejoice in the privilege of teaching future teachers the professional knowledge and skills, while fostering a commitment that will enable them in turn to "tell the next generation" (Ps 78:4). While preparing for this new academic year, the faculty of the College joined the faculty of the Seminary for a session with Dr. Lee Beach (McMaster Divinity College). Together we explored ways in which Christian institutions

of higher learning can foster spiritual formation in their students. It proved to be a worthwhile experience and one that will continue to have an impact on the work done at Covenant.

Indeed, the halls of Covenant are filled with excitement. Eighteen students are in various stages of their teacher preparation program. This year marks the return of several part-time faculty: Rev. Douwe Agema, Mme Teresa Boisvert, Dr. Ben Faber, Miss Judy Kingma, Mrs. Stephanie Sikma, and Mr. Tim Wildeboer, as well as full-time faculty: Mr. Allard Gunnink, Mr. Keith Sikkema, and Dr. Christine van Halen. In addition, we are very happy to welcome Mr. Jack Huizenga as the fourth full-time lecturer. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be introduced to him further, so allow me simply to welcome him warmly and wish him the LORD's blessings on his new task!

There is another bit of excitement in the air: In addition to offering space for many education-related activities, the College has a tenant in the person of Mr. Jason

Heemskerk. Jason is the coordinator appointed by League of Canadian Reformed School Societies. Although his task is quite distinct from the work done by the College, and as such he is not part of its operation, it is good to see his presence as a type of 'coming of age' of Canadian Reformed Schools. When we consider daily the tremendous blessings we share in assisting parents by faithfully offering a Godly and excellent education to thousands of children, we can only be deeply grateful for the opportunities we have. When we consider the times in which we live, it becomes clear that as Reformed Christian schools across the country and beyond, we need each other more than ever before – whether that is in the area of teacher training and continuing development, or in presenting a common voice in the public square. Together we are called to be a faithful presence, one that is intentional about being engaged in our culture.

The 2015-2016 academic year is a significant year. We are actively making preparations for the first big step in the accreditation process. One of the implications is that we will be changing the one-year post-degree program into a two-year program. This will bring us in line with the current Ontario teacher education practice, and will be comparable to the duration of teacher education programs in all other Canadian provinces.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2015 - 2016

“ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.”

– PSALM 36:9

Further, we hope to increase the number of summer courses intended to support practicing teachers in their professional development. During the past two summers, courses were offered in the Fraser Valley. These courses were well-received by the participants and their respective Boards. We hope that the summer of 2016 will see an increase in courses offered at various locations across Canada: Covenant is willing and able to be a resource to its member school communities. To make this happen, let us continue to work together to the praise of God’s glory, for only *in His light do we see light.*

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thanks!

to WATCH for the new desk photocopier and colour printer for the front office.





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FRANK C. LUDWIG

STRIVING FORWARD!

Another school year is well underway at Covenant – lectures are being given and absorbed, faculty is teaching and students are learning – even the practicum component is underway as students go into the schools to apply what they are learning in the College classrooms. The longer I'm involved in the governance of the College, the more impressed I am by all the work that needs doing and is being done, and the relatively few hands that are doing it.

This makes all the more impressive the progress that is being made, although it isn't always obvious on the "outside". Elsewhere in this newsletter you will no doubt read about current activities at the College, as well as a report from the Treasurer on the current financial statement, and so forth. One thing you might not read so much about, as yet, is the work of the Accreditation Committee, although that is one of the major thrusts of the Board's work at the moment.

The main reason for this is because much of the work at the moment is internal, "behind the scenes", so to speak. Having looked into the requirements for accreditation, it didn't take too long to discover the many things that need to be done just to get to the stage of writing an application for an external review. For

years already, we have been preparing for such a review by putting in place an acceptable governance model and all the host of policies that this requires – work that the Governance and Handbook Committee especially has been busy with. Writing course curriculum with appropriate degree level expectations has largely been the work of faculty in that area of expectations. At the moment, the writing of a concept paper, encompassing the core *raison d'être* of the College, and how that works itself out in policy and practice, is being worked on as one of the many pieces to be fit into the puzzle of the application process. There are very strict parameters for such a document, such that its working out is a challenging and time-consuming process. Not just anyone can produce such a document, so that is another task which has devolved to our principal, Dr. van Halen-Faber.

Cultivating the political climate for the process is another challenging and time-consuming aspect. An expert in the field who has access to members of the current government in Ontario, has been engaged to help us negotiate that aspect. We have to get to know the "players" in the political and bureaucratic fields, and cultivate relationships with them in order to have a hope of advancing our cause. That also presents a challenge, especially in a time where the government has made several moves to curtail the number of teacher candidates due to the current saturation of the market – not least of which was to change the one-year B.Ed. program to a 2-year one, a change which we must also emulate.

I could go on, but trust that the above is sufficient to give you some sense of the magnitude of the task that is being undertaken. Yet, we do not despair, because the work that is being done is done in the name of the Lord and to His glory. This is the 35th year of operation of Covenant. Although the going has never been easy, the Lord has blessed the work which, over that time, has produced some 250 teachers for our schools. These are faithful workers in the field of education, equipped with the tools to teach covenant children in the way of God's covenant.

That being said, challenges remain. Finding the funds to support the budget



REPORT FROM WATCH

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that is required to conduct the work of the College is an on-going struggle, a burden keenly felt by the Board and its local governors. That, too, is important because financial stability is one criterion of many in the accreditation process. This project will also require a special fund of its own as it comes with its own costs (as all lobbying of government and its agencies does).

We go forward in the strength of the Lord, in the firm conviction that training Reformed teachers for Reformed schools is an essential cause. We ask for your prayerful and financial support as we do so.

“ The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.” – PS. 119:130

The many people who are part of WATCH have been privileged to have a small part in the operation of Covenant College. The words of Ps. 119 spur us on in our work, knowing that our children need to be taught according to the light of his Word.

Reps in many congregations have been writing bulletin announcements and requesting their brothers and sisters to donate a toonie per communicant member of their household towards WATCH. Maybe you have seen a WATCH envelope come into your mailbox at church? Thank you for taking the time to fill it and return it. This money has been put to good use in purchasing items that do not fit on the regular budget.

At the graduation ceremony this past May, we were able to donate \$5,500.00. We are tremendously thankful to God for his blessings to us in this way. With this money the College has been able to purchase

a new desk for the front office. As well, furniture has been rearranged to accommodate the fourth faculty member. By the time you read this, the furniture in the student lounge should have been replaced. We are grateful for these new additions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their financial, as well as prayerful, support. A special thanks to our hard working reps as they take time from their busy lives to help collect for Covenant.

If you have any questions or donations please contact one of us from the WATCH board:

- Janet Van Vliet livingstreams@rogers.com
- Alina Noot ontario.noots@gmail.com
- Eleanor Boeringa peboeringa@cogeco.ca
- JoAnn VanIperen jajovaniperen@gmail.com
- Beth Stel bethkingma@hotmail.com



INTRODUCING JACK HUIZENGA

I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself to the supporting community of the Covenant College. It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the first teaching practicum where our students have an opportunity to experience life in the classroom. After that we have a few weeks of classes and then gear up for exams. Up until this year I had been a secondary school teacher where November marked the midterm of the first semester. This difference in the academic calendar is only one of a number of new experiences that I am getting used to since I began teaching at the College.

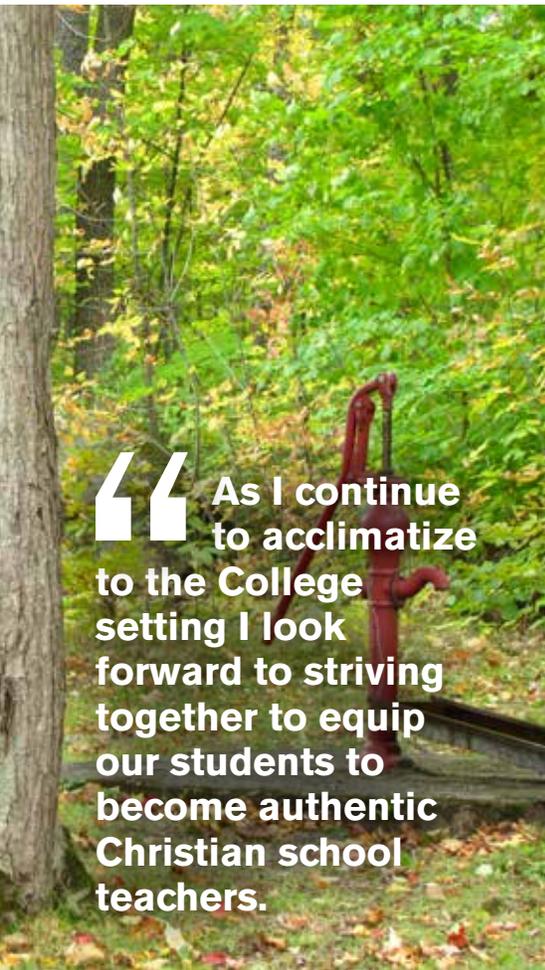
My wife, Patricia, and I have been blessed with two sons, Benjamin and Jonathan. We are members of the Immanuel United Reformed Church in Jordan, and our boys currently attend Heritage Christian School. My undergrad studies were in biochemistry and after graduating, I worked at the Hospital for Sick Children with a team of researchers that were part of the human genome project. Later I obtained my Bachelor of Education at Brock University and started teaching at Heritage at the turn of the century. As you can imagine, I taught science courses with a special affinity for biology and chemistry. One of my favourite courses to teach was Grade 12 biology, which focuses on the chemistry of biological features and processes. This course was a culminating course in high school science that overflowed with testimony of God's particular design and care of His creation. With the encouragement of our principal

I pursued further education in the area of leadership in Christian education. In time I was able to apply this knowledge to practice as the secondary vice principal at HCS. For a number of years I took a hiatus from further academic studies but a few years ago I took an additional qualification course at Redeemer University College in Special Education. I would recommend this course to any Christian school teacher. Not only did this course help me to realize how precious each child of God is, it made me appreciate the scholarship of the researchers who study children and how they learn. The Lord used this opportunity to spur me on to graduate studies.

For the past three years I have been studying at Brock University in the Master of Education program. The first two years consisted of course work in the area of administration and leadership in education. It was during one of these



courses, ethics in educational decision making, that I was introduced to the concept of authenticity. In particular, I was drawn to the work of Charles Taylor, a Canadian philosopher, and his book *The Ethics of Authenticity*. We, along with him, lament the shift in our culture towards a navel-gazing, individualistic approach to life where anything goes and it's all about me. Taylor calls for the restoration of the ideal of authenticity, where we lift our eyes away from ourselves and view our lives in relation to what he would call horizons of significance. Other authors have picked up on this notion and written articles about authentic education. I took these ideas and crafted a major research project around the question, "What is authentic Christian education?" To answer this question I interviewed three experienced Christian school principals. From these interviews I was able to distill a number of facets of authenticity that



“As I continue to acclimatize to the College setting I look forward to striving together to equip our students to become authentic Christian school teachers.

together serve as a lens through which Christian education can be examined.

In God's providence, as I was thinking about these things, the instructor position at the College was advertised. From the initial conversation with Christine van Halen-Faber, to the subsequent interviews, to the present time, I have felt very welcome at the College. I have also enjoyed visiting a number of schools that are members of the League in southern Ontario and getting to know fellow Christian educators serving the Lord in their callings. The courses that I have been assigned this year include Teaching Studies, Math and Science Methods, along with Mathematics for Elementary Teachers. As I continue to acclimatize to the College setting I look forward to striving together to equip our students to become authentic Christian school teachers.



Covenant
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE

The Board of Covenant College
INVITES APPLICATIONS
from prospective students for the
2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In keeping with the changes in Ontario's teacher education requirements, the current one-year program will change to a two-year program effective September 2016.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

FOR THE 2 - YEAR DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION PROGRAM:
Suitable university degree

FOR THE 3 - YEAR DIPLOMA OF TEACHING PROGRAM:
A grade 12 diploma with university entrance equivalence.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Prospective candidates are invited to contact the College for more information and/or to obtain an admission application package.

Those who plan to seek admission in the year 2017-2018 are also encouraged to contact the College as soon as possible.

**IF YOU DREAM OF TEACHING,
CONSIDER Covenant!**
CANADIAN REFORMED TEACHERS COLLEGE



QUESTIONS? FIND ANSWERS AT:

www.covenantteacherscollege.com

covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com | 905-385-0634 | Fax: 905-385-8409

OR visit us at: 410 Crerar Drive, Hamilton, Ontario, L9A 5K3

OR email: covenant@covenantteacherscollege.com

treasurer's REPORT

NATHAN HELDER

From a financial perspective, Covenant College has had a very busy year. The Finance Committee met approximately 6 times and developed some tools for the Governors to use within their communities.

These tools were designed to help the Governors in their task of fundraising in each of the various congregations. As you read this report, we are in the midst of completing the year-end financial statements. At this point, the past year was a difficult one, in that we did not meet our budget. We are experiencing a shortfall of approximately \$24,000.

In light of this monetary short-fall, we appeal to each of you to give your Governor a bit of your time when they call you. They are calling you not only to ask for (continued) support, but are also updating you with some of the exciting developments and goings-on in the College. When they ask if you can assist



REFORMED EDUCATION MATTERS
Help make it happen.
DONATE TODAY

TELLING THE NEXT GENERATION

the College financially, please consider whether you are able to share some of the blessings the Lord has given you. For those that have and continue to support the College, THANK YOU! Your financial commitment is very much appreciated!

This past year we saw an increase of about 20% in the number of people who are using the Pre- Authorized Payment system. This is excellent and we thank those who have signed on! Receiving a set amount each month is very important to the daily operations of the College, as it helps tremendously with cash flow and meeting monthly commitments.

Although the largest part of our revenue comes from tuition and donations from individuals and businesses, our 'members' are actually the school societies we serve. It is for this reason that each member

school has a representative on the Board of Governors and is assessed a per-student minimum fee. At the past AGM, the Board of Governors recognized that there has not been an increase in the per-student fee for several years. In light of the school societies' planning and budgeting, the Board of Governors approved a motion of an increase of \$1.00 per student per year for the next 5 years.

There is much reason for gratitude in the continued operation of Covenant, not only for the training of new teachers, but also in support for the professional development of practicing teachers. With your financial contributions and prayerful support, Covenant will continue the training of Reformed teachers for the benefit of the next generation, and to the honour and glory of our God.

✂ Please detach and use the postage paid envelope enclosed or mail to: **CCRTC • 410 Crerar Drive • Hamilton, ON • L9A 5K3**

Yes! I would like to support the CCRTC!

- One-Time gift of \$ _____ (cheque Enclosed)
 Monthly by pre-authorized Automatic withdrawal

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ADDRESS _____

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EMAIL (optional) _____

Pre-Authorized Direct Withdrawal Form

I want to be a regular donor to Covenant Canadian Reformed Teachers College and allow automatic donations from my bank account as indicated below. I agree with the conditions in the application and can terminate this agreement at any time.

- \$40/Month** - Withdrawn on the:
 15th of the month 30th of the month

- \$480/Annually** - Withdrawn on _____ each year

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 15th of the month 30th of the month

SIGNATURE _____

Please ATTACH a blank cheque marked "VOID" to this form.